(c) The export of agro products (including marine products, tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton) during the current year for the period (April-Oct.) are as under:

(Rs. Thousand Crore)

Year	Agricultural exports
2000-01 (Apr.-Oct.)	13.80
1999-2000 (Apr.-Oct.)	13.59

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

UN Panel Report on India

569. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'UN panel names India in blood diamonds trail* which appeared in the Indian Express dated 22nd January, 2001;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and

(c) the steps. proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) The United Nations Panel of Experts under the Chairmanship of Mr. Martin Chungong Ayafor during their visit to India was apprised of the various actions taken by the Government of India and the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council to ensure that India does not have any dealings in conflict/blood diamonds. The UN Panel in turn had expressed its satisfaction about the action taken by India. In its report the Expert Panel has stated that it is essential and urgent that major trading centres, which includes India, come to a common agreement on the recording and

public documentation of rough diamond import which is consistent from one country to another and that clearly designates the country of origin in addition to the country of provenance.

The Government of India are willing to fully cooperate with any reasonable global documentation scheme which does not cause any undue delays and does not create unnecessary hardships to the legitimate trade in diamonds, with a view to eliminate the possibility of any conflict diamonds entering India.

Setting up of SEZ in Andhra Pradesh

570. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has met the Commerce and Industry Minister and has requested to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Andhra Pradesh at par with international standards;

(b) if so, whether this project is to be located between Vizag and Kakinada;

(c) whether this Special Economic Zone will be developed in the state to encourage investment and exports; and

(d) if so, whether Government have already agreed to provide help and assistance in setting up Special Economic Zone in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOU MARAN): (a) to (d) In principal approval has been given for setting up of a Special Economic Zone between Kakinada and Vishakhapatnam on the basis of request received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in September, 2000. Formal proposal indicating all details of the project is awaited from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. No financial assistance by the Centre for setting up of Special Economic Zone is envisaged under the scheme. The zone is expected to encourage investment and exports.